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# CIA-Student Group Ties Defended

Only 2 Youths Yearly  
Knew Of Agency's  
Anti-Red Overseas  
Aid, U.S. Says

By PAUL W. WARD

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 14—United States officials acknowledged and defended here today secret subsidization by the Central Intelligence Agency of anti-Communist operations overseas by the largest of American student organizations.

They said that:

1. CIA subsidization of the National Student Association began in 1952, when the organization could not get enough private contributions for its overseas operations, and ended with 1966 because the need for such operations had lessened and nongovernmental financing became adequate.

2. Only the top two of the association's annually elected officers had been allowed to know of the CIA's role in its operations and the 1,300,000-member association as a whole has been so free of any consequent governmental tutelage that it has been turning out resolutions critical of Washington's policies.

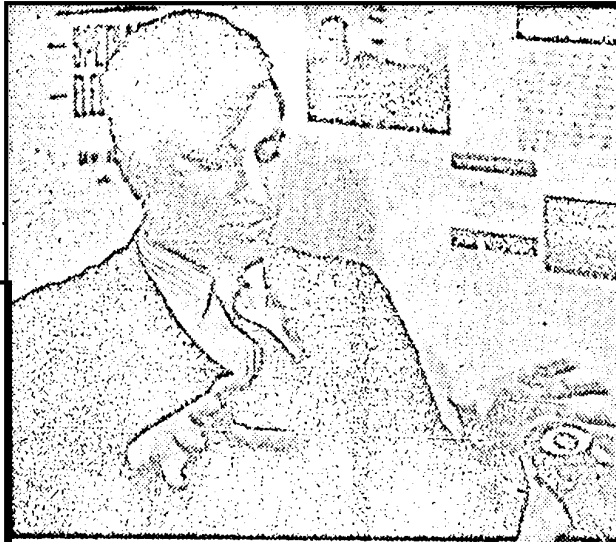
However, congressional critics of the CIA seized upon the disclosure of its relations with the student group as fresh ammunition for their fight to establish some form of continuous congressional surveillance over the intelligence agency.

Representative Zablocki (D., Wis.) said he will "again urge" Representative Golmer (D., Miss.) to have the House Rules Committee, which the latter heads, "take speedy action" on a resolution the Wisconsin Democrat introduced when Congress convened last month.

## Bipartisan Committee

The resolution, Zablocki explained, calls for creation of a bipartisan "committee on intelligence" to comprise seven senators and seven representatives.

Representative Edna Kelly (D., N.Y.), who has proposed creation of a similar "watch-



AP Wirephoto

EUGENE GROVES

President of the National Student Association

ing" committee made up only of House members, said she would press to have the Rules Committee hold secret hearings on that proposal. She said the latest disclosure about CIA operations was "minor" in comparison with some she would make to the Rules Committee in executive session.

## Magazine Advertisement

Saying that committee meets in closed session "only to vote things up or down," Zablocki, on the other hand, called for "open hearings, first." He added that the disclosure of CIA financing of the student group "confirms that the CIA needs more overseeing from Congress than it has got in the past."

Eight other Democratic representatives subsequently signed and made public a letter to President Johnson, asking that he order "an immediate investigation at the highest level" of the CIA's aid to the student organization.

## "Compromised, Corrupted"

They said it had "compromised and corrupted the largest student organization in the world" and undertaken "an unconscionable extension of power."

The signers were Representatives Brown (Cal.), Burton (Cal.), Conyers (Mich.), Down (N.Y.), Edwards (Cal.), Kastenmeier (Wis.), Rosenthal (N.Y.) and Ryan (N.Y.).

Representative Lukens (R., Ohio) also was moved to protest by the disclosure but on the ground that it was "shocking and scandalous" for the CIA to help finance an organization that "has consistently opposed the strategic interests of the United States and the policies of its Government."

Some of the student group's stands on international questions "proved of direct benefit to international communism," the Ohio Republican asserted, adding: "It would be downright funny if it weren't so serious."

The official disclosure followed local publication this morning of a full-page advertisement by Ramparts magazine, a California monthly, declaring that its March issue "will document how the CIA has infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders over the past fifteen years . . . (and) has used students to spy."

Eugene Groves, the National Student Association's current president, issued, in turn, a statement saying that at no time had the association "served any intelligence function" or provided "information of a sensitive nature" to any Federal agency.

The association's officers had turned to the CIA for financial aid when "heavily financed and totally controlled Soviet-front organizations in the international student field made it im-

relative that democratic and progressive organizations maintain a presence abroad that would offer an alternative."

## Statement Issued

After the White House referred all inquiries to the State Department, Robert J. McCloskey, the department's chief press officer, dictated this afternoon a statement saying:

"We have confirmed with the CIA that, as stated by the N.S.A., its leadership has been working over the past two years to terminate the financial arrangement concerning support for the N.S.A.'s international activities . . . even prior to that time the degree of governmental support for those activities had begun tapering off very sharply."

Groves said a RAMPARTS press agent was "reasonably accurate" in estimating the CIA's help to the student group as running as high as \$200,000 a year at the start and tapering down to about \$50,000 last year. Richard Stearns, the association's vice president for international affairs, said its total budget for 1967 runs to \$825,000.

The CIA's help, amounting to about 5 per cent of that total in recent years, has been dwarfed by the Soviet Government's subsidies to the "World Youth Festivals" it began staging in 1947.

A State Department "background" paper, produced on the eve of the festival held at Moscow in 1957, cited estimates of Soviet Government investment running "as high as \$50,000,000," and a Communist official said the subsequent, or 1959, festival at Helsinki had cost the Soviet Government \$25,000,000.

There have been eight such festivals and only two—the seventh at Vienna and the eighth at Helsinki—have been held in non-Communist capitals. The ninth was to have been held at Algiers in 1965, but the coincident overthrow of the Ben Bella regime there squashed the arrangements.

## To Be Held At Sofia

The ninth "World Youth Festival" is now scheduled to be held, instead, at Sofia next year, Bulgaria's capital having been chosen in preference to Cuba's at a preparatory commission meeting in Vienna last month.

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